

CORRESPONDENCE

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

BY EDWARD SWALLOW.

Pharmacy Week, as suggested by Chairman Robert J. Ruth, in the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, at the 1924 meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, is certainly a step in the right direction. The idea has taken hold all over the country and promises to develop into a permanent nation-wide movement that will greatly assist in strengthening the relations between the pharmacist and the public.

Pharmacy Week.—With all kinds of fakirs imposing on the community to the serious detriment to both medicine and pharmacy—seven days a year devoted to showing the public that a pharmacist has a back-ground of learning and science which really makes him “more than an ordinary merchant” is wisdom of the highest order. Where questionable methods of healing are so extensively advertised; methods, by the way, that bring no grist to the pharmacist’s mill but instead injure materially the professions of medicine and pharmacy, it can only be good “common sense” to show the public something that bears on the knowledge and training the pharmacist has and the service he renders thereby.

Pharmacy Week.—Here’s a glorious opportunity for every pharmacist to put his best foot forward in the direction of progress, and secure in a measure proper recognition of his ability as a scientifically trained man, whose business promotes public welfare and health; is indeed founded on the study of drugs and medicines used by physicians in their treatment of disease. The average pharmacist would like to do more professional business in the way of compounding and dispensing of prescriptions, and when he is so engaged serious responsibilities rest upon him. The public does not fully realize this in viewing the many different kinds of “other goods” that modern business methods have forced upon the pharmacist. The public sees in the ordinary drug store very little of the scientific background; to obtain the essential knowledge thereto much time and money is expended, and of which every pharmacist is rightly proud, and he would like to apply to a larger extent. Therefore every druggist, employer and employee should welcome this opportunity of so ordering the work and conduct of the store during this week that it will mean much to them and their profession—that they will give their best thought and attention to inform the public that while the prescription department may represent a minor part of the business volume, in reality the knowledge that makes it possible and the necessary special training always has a large part in every transaction conducted by the pharmacist. Knowledge and science contribute responsibilities and there is no reason why their possession should be hidden and the service rendered thereby kept from public view. In a proper way the professional service of a pharmacy should be given publicity in a relation to that given to the side-lines of the store.

Pharmacy Week gives every pharmacist an opportunity to acquaint the public with his science and art; his service is more valuable to the community than that of the unqualified. If the 50,000 pharmacists will take this week for expressing themselves, as they can do, their profession will advance in the estimation of the public and general good will result.

Pharmacy Week can be made and should be made a means of progress and be for the betterment of the profession of pharmacy in America.

Mount Vernon, N. Y.

CHEMICAL EXPOSITION OPENS IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 28.

The Chemical Exposition will open at the Grand Central Palace on September 28.

One of the features of the Exposition will be the Court of Chemical Achievement, in which will be grouped the most meritorious developments of recent years. Every exhibit in this section will be of American origin.

The United States Chemical Warfare Service will display apparatus for using chlorine in the treatment of respiratory diseases, devices for producing smoke screens, improved tear gas munitions and new types of gas masks. The United States Bureau of Chemistry will also be an exhibit.